

Bromus arenarius

COMMON NAME

sand brome

SYNONYMS

None in New Zealand

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Bromus arenarius Labill.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

BROARE

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: EF, SO, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: EF, SO

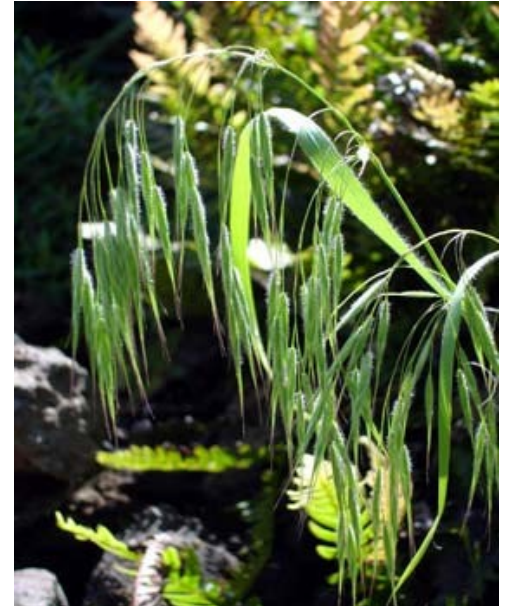
2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. In New Zealand known from mainly coastal locations from the Three Kings Islands south to Mahia Peninsula, thence disjunct to Wellington Harbour, and the Chatham Islands. It has been found once in the South Island, inland at Molesworth in Marlborough. Also on Norfolk Island and along the eastern side of Australia

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland (with one montane record from Marlborough). A species of open rocky ground. coastal cliff faces, scree and boulderfield. Often associated with sea bird nesting grounds, especially gulls.



Bromus arenarius inflorescence prior anthesis, Ex Cult. October 2005. Photographer: Peter de Lange



Bromus arenarius inflorescence after anthesis, ex. cult. Photographer: Peter de Lange

FEATURES

Yellow-green annual 200-860 mm tall, tufted or solitary, basal leaves withering at or before flowering. Leaf-sheath densely villous. Ligule 1-2.6 mm, lacerate. Leaf-sheath 70-300 x 1.7-5 mm, densely villous. Culm 150-600(-800) mm, erect or geniculate-ascending, internodes pubescent below panicle. Panicle 70-260 mm, lax, nodding; branches filiform, curving. Spikelets 30-40 mm, 5-8-flowered, numerous, loosely hairy, oblong-lanceolate to wedge-shaped. Glumes unequal, acute, acuminate, apery, covered within long fine hairs; lower 7-9.5 mm, 3-nerved, narrow oblong-lanceolate, upper 9.5-13 mm, 5-7-nerved, narrow elliptic-lanceolate. Lemma 11-14 mm, 7-9-nerved, rounded, papery, oblong- to narrowly elliptic-lanceolate, covered with long fine hairs, apex sometimes entire or with 2-acute lobes, awn 14-20 mm, arising 2 mm below lemma apex. Palea $\frac{3}{4}$ length of lemma, keels sparsely long-ciliate, interkeel glabrous. Callus with minute hairs. Rachilla 1.2 mm, pubescent. Anthers 0.8-1.5 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

A distinctive late winter to spring time annual, which has usually dried off by December. It can be distinguished from all other bromes naturalised in New Zealand by the 3-nerved lower glume, and 5-7-nerved upper glume, loosely hairy spikelets, and by the glabrous interkeels of the palea.

FLOWERING

(July-)August-October

FRUITING

August-December

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

An annual. Easily grown from fresh seed. Rather attractive when flowering.

THREATS

Although not really threatened this species is never particularly common anywhere. It has a naturally sporadic distribution.

ETYMOLOGY

bromus: From the ancient Greek word bromos, referring to a kind of oat

arenarius: Sand dweller

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE

Although Edgar & Connor (2000, Flora of New Zealand Vol. V) regard this species as an early European introduction, the reason for this decision was not given (though one assumes this is because early collections were made from the vicinity of ports), but as its seeds are bird dispersed, and its ecology and distribution shows strong links to sea bird nesting grounds, it is just as likely that it is indigenous here. Prior to the publication of Flora V B. arenarius had always been regarded as indigenous. Despite the decision made by Edgar & Connor (2000) NZPCN see no reason to regard this species as any thing other than indigenous.

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Edgar E. and H. Connor. 2000. Flora of New Zealand. Volume 5. Manaaki Whenua Press: Lincoln, New Zealand.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/bromus-arenarius/>